

TITLE 529: BOXERS' FUND BOARD
CHAPTER 2.00: ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND

2.01: Definitions

Board shall mean the Boxers' Fund Board established under M.G.L. c. 6, § 99.

Commission shall mean the State Boxing Commission.

Fund shall mean the Boxers' Fund established under M.G.L. c. 147, § 40A.

Member shall mean a member of the Board.

Recipient shall mean any person receiving assistance from the Boxers' Fund.

2.02: Standards of the Board

(1) Designation of Secretary. The Chairman of the Board shall designate a member as Secretary of the Board. Said Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of all meetings of the Board, regular and special, and shall have custody of same. All records so kept shall always be open and available for reasonable inspection by any member.

(2) Meetings of the Board. The Board shall meet once each month and at special meetings called by the Chairman upon not less than 48 hours notice of such meeting by certified mail to each member.

A quorum for the purpose of a meeting of the Board shall consist of not less than three members.

2.03: Standards of Eligibility

(1) Eligibility for Payments.

(a) The Fund shall be administered for the use and benefit of professional boxers in need of assistance due to injury, illness, disability or economic distress.

(b) No person shall be eligible to receive benefits from the Fund unless he has competed in a professional boxing match within the Commonwealth under a license issued by the Commission in accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 35, and has been a *bona fide* resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for not less than three years prior to application for benefits from the Fund.

(c) Applications for benefits from the Fund shall be made upon forms furnished by the Board.

(d) No person who is financially able to pay for all his medical, surgical, hospital, general support and related needs shall be eligible for benefits.

~~(e) The granting of benefits under the Fund shall be in the reasonable discretion of the Board.~~

~~(2) Extent of Assistance.~~

~~(a) Financial assistance to any recipient in any given 12 month period, including emergency assistance under 529 CMR 2.03(5) shall not exceed 3% in the aggregate of the amount of the total of the Fund as of the first of January then past, when such assistance commences.~~

~~(b) All such assistance shall be paid by check of the Commonwealth drawn on the Fund to the order of such payee as determined by the Board upon an order therefor and certification of the necessity of such assistance by not less than a majority of the Board present at a meeting of said Board. Such order for payment and certification shall be made within 24 hours after the meeting of the Board making a determination thereof.~~

~~(3) Information Confidential. All information given by an applicant in a request for assistance shall be treated and considered as confidential by the members and by the employees of the Board.~~

~~(4) Payment of Expenses. The Board shall be authorized to pay all reasonable costs and expenses and other incidental and necessary costs incurred in the administration of M.G.L. c. 147, § 40A and 529 CMR as promulgated by the Board.~~

~~(5) Emergency Assistance. Emergency benefits may be paid upon authorization signed by at least two members of the Board and without the necessity of action at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, but such assistance shall not be paid for a period longer than the next regularly scheduled meeting.~~

CHAPTER 3.00: ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOXERS' FUND

Section

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3.01: Scope and applicability

In accordance with G.L. c.6, §99 and G.L. c.147, §40A, the Boxers' Fund Board is charged with the disbursement of funds from the Boxers' Fund. The Boxers' Fund shall be administered for the use and benefit of either former or current professional fighters, either for funeral expenses or for those in need of financial assistance due to injury suffered while participating in a professional unarmed combat event.

3.02: Definitions

As used in 529 CMR, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms shall have the following meanings:

Board shall mean the Boxers' Fund Board established under G.L. c. 6, § 99.

Commission shall mean the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission as established under G.L. c. 22, §12.

Event shall mean unarmed combat activity sanctioned by the Commission.

Fund shall mean the Boxers' Fund established under G.L. c. 147, § 40A.

Injury shall mean any physical, psychological, or neurological damage suffered as a result of participating in an unarmed combat event.

Unarmed combat shall mean any sport regulated by the Commission in accordance with G.L. c.147, §32.

3.03: Standards of Eligibility

In order to be eligible for benefits from the Fund, an applicant must demonstrate the following:

- (a) that they have competed in an event within the Commonwealth, under a license issued by the Commission, in accordance with G.L. c. 147, §35; and,
- (b) that they have been a resident of the Commonwealth for at least 3 years prior to making application for assistance from the Fund; and,
- (c) that they have sustained injury (or in the case application is made for assistance with funeral expenses, that the subject individual is deceased); and,
- (d) that they have suffered financial hardship due to the injury identified in 529 CMR 3.03(c).
- (e) that they have not been awarded monies from the Fund within the previous 12 months.

3.04: General Provisions and Application Requirements

- (a) Applications for assistance from the Fund shall be made on forms provided by the Board.
- (b) In addition to demonstrating the eligibility requirements listed in 529 CMR 3.03, applicants must provide:
 - (1) Fighter's license number issued by the Commission
 - (2) Social Security Number
 - (3) A government issued identification bearing the applicant's photograph
- (c) Applications must include written documentation demonstrating that the applicant has either suffered injury (e.g.- medical records or letter from licensed treating physician), or that application is being made on behalf of a deceased individual for payment of funeral expenses.
- (d) Applications must include written documentation demonstrating the applicant's financial hardship. Financial hardship may be demonstrated by submitting such documentation as bank statements, bills, letters, medical records, and tax returns, as well as by oral testimony of the applicant or witnesses.
- (e) No funds will be disbursed directly to an applicant. All monies awarded shall be paid by the Board on behalf of the applicant towards the payment of outstanding balances, anticipated utility bills, application fees, tuition payments, rent/mortgage payments, loan payments, funeral expenses, and other similar obligations. Luxury expenses will not be considered. Applications must include written documentation identifying where the applicant would like any awarded monies to be disbursed. All disbursements will be made at the direction of the Board.
- (f) Before making any disbursements the Board may, when deemed appropriate, require an applicant to provide proof of their identity in addition to that required under 529 CMR 3.04(b).
- (g) Applicants must provide any requested documentation and cooperate in any investigation deemed necessary by the Board in conjunction of its review of a submitted application. Failure to cooperate with the Board shall be grounds for denial of an application.
- (h) An application may be denied by the Board for failure of the applicant to produce satisfactory proof of all eligibility requirements or to provide all information required in accordance with 529 CMR 3.03 and 3.04

3.05: Hearings

All applicants shall appear in person before the Board to review their application unless satisfactory cause is provided otherwise.

3.06: Decisions

The Board shall issue a written decision relative to any action taken on a submitted application. Decisions shall be issued in a reasonably prompt manner.

3.07: Appeals

Any final decision by the Board on an application may be appealed to Superior Court in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §14.

3.08: Disbursement of Funds and Amount of Assistance

- (a) Financial assistance to an individual applicant shall not exceed 3% of the total amount of the total Fund at the time the Board reviews the application or \$3,000, whichever is the lesser amount.
- (b) Upon approval of any award, the Board shall make a written request to the Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Public Safety to disburse funds consistent with the vote of the Board.
- (c) The granting of benefits from the Fund shall be in the reasonable discretion of the Board.

3.09: Privacy

All information provided by an applicant in an application for assistance and/or at a hearing before the Board shall be subject to the provisions of Massachusetts public record and open meeting laws, G.L.c. 30A, §§18-25, and G.L.c. 66.

3.10: Variances

The Board may, at its discretion, grant a variance from any provision of 529 CMR for any cause it determines sufficient.